



**Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
Meeting Summary Minutes
May 12th, 2010**

Welcome and Approval of March and April Meeting Summary Minutes:

Mark Maxin, Chair, convened the meeting. Charlie Crawford, Commissioner, motioned for the March and April Meeting Summary Minutes to be approved. Trish Galallee, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the March and April Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Presentation: "The White Flint Plan" ~ Barnaby Zall, of Counsel Weinberg & Jacobs, LLP

Paul Meyer, Commissioner, gave background information regarding Friends of White Flint, a nonprofit organization that is comprised of members that include the largest employers and businesses, homeowners and residential community organizations, and landowners and developers in the White Flint area. The Friends of White Flint have made numerous recommendations for the White Flint Sector Plan.

Barnaby Zall gave an overview of the White Flint Sector Plan (see Attachment I). White Flint is part of North Bethesda. The White Flint area is larger than what the White Flint Sector Plan covers because it is a legal document carved out of the North Bethesda Plan. The Sector boundaries start at Montrose Parkway and extend to just south of the White Flint mall to the railroad tracks on the east and Old Georgetown Road on the west, and is centered on the White Flint Metro. White Flint is the busiest retail area in the state of Maryland and is 430 acres; 161 acres are parking lots. The area is dominated by traffic. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation views Rockville Pike as a pipe between National Institutes of Health in Bethesda and Rockville.

In 2005, the County Council decided to redevelop the White Flint area. The Planning Board created the world's largest Advisory Board comprised of 86 members. 17 formal meetings were held where the idea of new urbanism was discussed. New urbanism is an urban design movement, which promotes walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods that contain a range of housing and job types. This type of design has worked in cities such as Arlington, which was similar to White Flint a few years ago. The density of the city was quadrupled and as more transit was made available, traffic congestion went down. Arlington is 1/10th of the land area of Arlington County and it produces 50% of the tax revenue and has the lowest tax rate in the area. The Advisory Board proposed that a similar design be developed around the White Flint Metro and to create high density near the Metro to reduce Rockville Pike transportation congestion.

Ian Lockwood, Principal and Senior Transportation Engineer, Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin, Inc., recommended creating a street network of six lanes north and south, and ten lanes east and west. Currently, the lower income area on the east side of White Flint is isolated. One of the goals of the White Flint Sector Plan is to create an area of inclusion so everyone can enjoy it. The Sector Plan will turn Rockville Pike into a Boulevard with mass transit in the median, which will make shorter distances for people to cross the street and will provide a uniform right of way for transit. It will also allow for promenades to be installed on both sides of Rockville Pike making a wide sidewalk for pedestrians and people with disabilities to easily move up and down Rockville Pike. The promenades will allow for easy access to White Flint Core Areas, such as the new Civic Building, the Civic Green Park, the library, the Regional Center, and more. Bicycle access has also been included in the Sector Plan. Mr. Zall thanked Paul Meyer for his input on accessibility. Developers will receive special incentives for including accessibility in their commercial and residential zoning core plans.

On March 23rd, the County Council unanimously passed the White Flint Sector Plan. The Plan will generate \$67B in new investments and it is estimated that the County will receive \$7B in net revenue. The County has to invest a little under \$1B to start the project. The County Executive has hired a consultant to create a financing plan. The County's growth policy is also in the process of being revised. The current growth policy limits growth to areas based on the speed of transportation (i.e., development stops if cars slow down; development continues if cars speed up).

Mr. Zall opened the floor to questions.

Aaron Kaufman, Vice-Chair, asked for more elaboration on the universal design principles of the Sector Plan. Mr. Zall explained that sidewalks are critical and the Advisory Board recommended that sidewalks be wide enough for two individuals who use wheelchairs to easily navigate. They also recommended that sidewalks be a smooth surface and that bricks be used in the street. Aaron asked how the County will be able to fund this project. Mr. Zall said that developers have agreed to tax themselves in advance. Taxes will start when the financing plan is adopted. The County only needs to raise 10%, with the other 90% going into the general fund.

Jackie Simon, Commissioner, said that urban design should include universal design. She has concerns about the developers taxing themselves. A similar financing plan was used in Clarksburg and the builders have passed the costs onto new home owners who have agreed to be taxed \$600 to \$1,500 per unit per year for the next 30 years. Mr. Zall said that Royce Hanson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning, who is the original proponent of the White Flint Sector Plan was brought in to fix the Clarksburg Plan. He believes the County Council and the Planning Board are aware of the problems at Clarksburg.

Charlie Crawford, Commissioner, asked if there are considerations to include accessible pedestrian signals in the White Flint Sector Plan. If so, he asked about the issue of maintenance. For example, there are a few accessible pedestrian signals that no longer work in downtown Silver Spring. People become acclimated to using them and can become disoriented without them. Mr. Zall said those questions will have to be answered by MCDOT. Aaron Kaufman, Vice-Chair, said that Councilmember Valerie Ervin has jurisdiction over Silver Spring and Charlie can raise his concerns about the inoperative signals with her chief of Staff Sonya Healy at 240-777-7960 (V).

Mark Maxin, Chair, asked for clarification about density. Mr. Zall explained that it includes high-rise buildings that would be mixed-use with businesses on the lower floors and residential above. Mark asked what the time frame is for completing this project. Mr. Zall said it is a 30 year plan the project will start as soon as the financing plan is adopted. Once final approval is received, it will be roughly three years before construction begins.

Isabel A. Torres-Davis, Commissioner, works for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD has funding opportunities for developments that include recommendations from individuals with disabilities and low- and moderate-income housing. She encouraged Mr. Zall to look into these opportunities.

Betsy Luecking, Staff, asked where the trolley will travel. Mr. Zall said the County is currently doing a study and looking into possible routes.

Presentation: "Health Tip of the Month - Lyme Disease" ~ Cindy Edwards, Public Health, Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services

Cindy Edwards gave an overview of prevention, early detection and early treatment of Lyme disease (see Attachment II). More information can be found online at www.marylandtickoff.org.

Update from the Chair and Vice Chair:

Mark Maxin, Chair, noted that in April the Charter Commission voted down Schedule A and are in the process of drafting a letter to be sent to the County Council stating why they were against it. Despite the vote, the County Council still has the authority to vote with a majority of five members to have Schedule

A be on the ballot this November. Mark is talking with Councilmember Phil Andrews to figure out a strategy on how to bring this issue forward. He encouraged Commissioners to discuss ideas on how to strategize. Aaron Kaufman, Vice-Chair, suggested speaking with Nancy Aldous, County Council Liaison, about how to work with the County Council. Paul Meyer, Commissioner, suggested inviting Christine Griffin, Deputy Secretary of Office of Personnel Management (OPM), who is a major force behind Schedule A, to speak to the County Council. Mark added that on April 26th, the Federal Government held a major marketing campaign of Schedule A by hosting a hiring fair. Managers were encouraged to make offers on the spot and there has been a significant increase of hiring individuals with disabilities in the Federal Government. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has hired five individuals with disabilities within the last few months.

Aaron Kaufman, Commissioner, said that Governor O'Malley will sign a bill on May 24th that will link Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) inflationary increases to the inflationary increases it gives to state institutions and state hospitals.

Motion: Montgomery County Zoning Code Rewrite ~Jackie Simon

Jackie Simon, Commissioner, asked for the Commission to support and endorse a letter she is writing to the Montgomery County Planning Board regarding the Zoning Code Rewrite. The County is in the process of rewriting its entire zoning law by reducing the number of zones and making it easier to understand. County Council President Nancy Floreen asked Jackie to write up observations from the perspective of persons with disabilities. Jackie is recommending that universal design be incorporated as the "best practice" in design and planning and should be considered a "public benefit" and incentives should be given to developers for including universal design in their plans. Universal design provides for good design, meaningful inclusion of all persons, and related cost effectiveness for the foreseeable future and beyond. Charlie Crawford, Commissioner, recommended including public rights of way as part of the recommendation. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved with Charlie's edit. Mark will send the letter out under his signature and Jackie will co-sign.

Angela Washington, Commissioner, thanked the Commissioners for their support that the Equal Employment Opportunity Office remain within the Office of Human resources. County Executive Leggett's proposed Operating Budget would have moved Angela's position to the Office of Human Rights and the County would not have had an EEO Officer. The Commission wrote a letter to the County Council against such a move. On May 4th, the County Council Health & Human Services Committee disapproved the move in the form of Bill 12-10, Human Rights, Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

Susan Smith, Commissioner, said that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sent out a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) the beginning of April that would provide vouchers for younger individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 61. Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) would be eligible for 200 vouchers. The second part of the NOFA was for vouchers associated with the Money Follows the Person program, which moves individuals out of institutions, nursing facilities, mental health hospitals, and ICFMRs (intermediate care facility of the mentally retarded). HOC is not pursuing part two of the NOFA as it is complicated and will require changes to be made to the waiting list. Isabel A. Torres-Davis, Commissioner, added that she can provide information on how to get support for applying for the NOFA. Mark Maxin, Chair, made a motion that the Commission draft a letter requesting that HOC apply for part two of the NOFA. Jackie seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Steve Riley, Commissioner, noted that Potomac Community Resources (PCR) applied for a \$25,000 grant from Montgomery County. The County Council is voting on grants on Monday, May 17th. PCR will be sending an e-mail tomorrow, May 13th that will enable individuals to send a letter of support to the County Council by clicking on a link.

Workgroup Announcements: Seth Morgan, Commissioner, said the Health & Wellness Workgroup will meet Wednesday, May 19th from 5:00pm-5:45pm at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville in the 1st Floor Tan Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, June 9th, 2010 – EOB, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD - Lobby Auditorium, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Health & Wellness Workgroup: Wednesday, June 16th, 2010 – 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD – 1st Floor Tan Conference Room, 5:00pm to 5:45pm

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 16th, 2010 - 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD - 1st Floor Tan Conference Room, 5:45pm to 6:30pm

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Office Services Coordinator
Betsy Luecking, Disability Policy Specialist

THE WHITE FLINT SECTOR PLAN

Purpose and Goals:



The White Flint Sector Plan is a comprehensive recommendation for the use of public and private land in the White Flint Sector in the next thirty years. There are few locations remaining in Montgomery County where excellent transit service and redevelopment potential coincide. White Flint fits squarely into Montgomery County's General Plan and long range policies as the place to accommodate a substantial portion of the region's projected growth, especially housing, in a sustainable community.

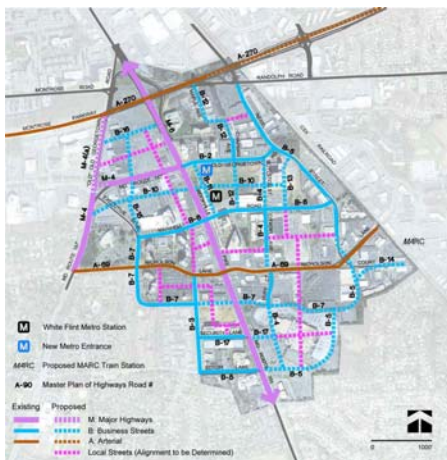
The White Flint Sector Plan recommends transforming an auto-oriented suburban development pattern into a sustainable urban center of residences and businesses where people walk to work, shops and transit. White Flint will be a place where different lifestyles converge to make urban living interesting and exciting. The proposed cultural and retail destinations in and around the civic core, the open space system, and the walkable street grid unite to energize White Flint. From this energy, White Flint will become a vibrant and sustainable urban center that can adapt and respond to existing and future challenges.

Core:

The White Flint Sector Plan is focused on an urban core, centered at the Metro station, where active public spaces, streets, public parks, and plazas organize the built environment and give it character and style. This requires a connected street grid and public open space system framed by buildings. The street grid creates walkable blocks with residences and local services. Two intersecting promenades, an east-west section along Market Street and a north-south section along Rockville Pike, will provide a unique environment for walking and biking throughout the sector plan. Pedestrian activity brings more people into the public spaces and increases the safety of all.



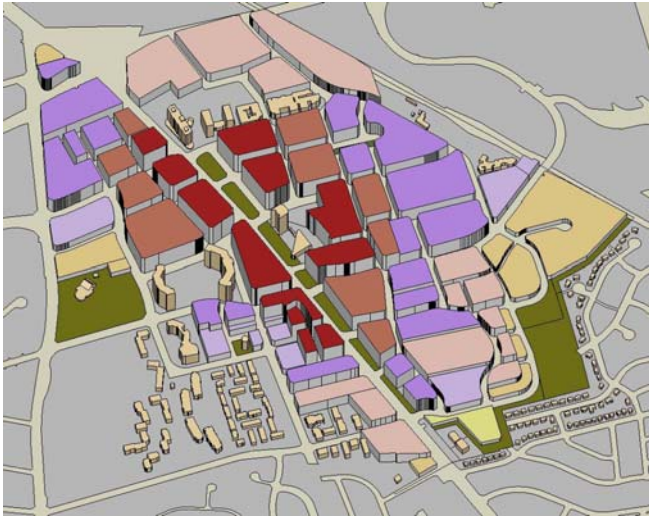
Mobility:



The key to transforming White Flint is reconfiguring its mobility system. The existing street network will be reconstituted into a smaller grid system that provides better access. The transit system will expand to include local as well as circulator bus service and convenient pedestrian access.

The success of White Flint, however, depends on the pedestrian experience. Drivers do not expect to encounter pedestrians, because there are few people walking in White Flint today. Existing conditions, heavy traffic, lack of streetscape, narrow sidewalks, and multiple turning lanes at wide intersections inhibit pedestrian movement. Reconstructing the existing street network, especially along Rockville Pike, and using pedestrian-friendly cross sections

will significantly improve the pedestrian environment. All the streets will be pedestrian-oriented and walkable. Rockville Pike, transformed into a grand boulevard, will visually tie together the east and west sides of the Plan area. Sidewalks, bikeways, trails, and paths provide options for pedestrian circulation and connections to other communities.



Land Use:

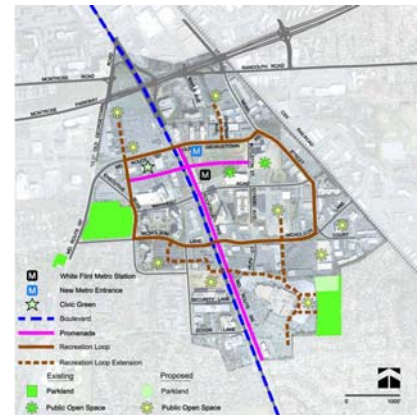
The Plan's goal is to achieve, overall, a mix of 60 percent residential and 40 percent nonresidential uses. People who live, shop and work in the same place drive less. This emphasis on residential development reduces overall trip generation and provides enough new residents to create neighborhoods and support an urban center. It also advances the County's goal of improving the jobs-housing balance in the I-270/MD 355 Corridor.

The recommended densities in White Flint will range from 1.5 FAR to 4.0 FAR. Maximum heights in the White Flint Plan range from 300 feet in the core to 50 feet near the residential area. The proposed density

pattern places the highest density and tallest buildings within ¼-mile of the Metro station. Densities and heights transition away from Rockville Pike and the Metro station. The lowest FAR density and lowest building heights are located at the edges of the Plan area where they provide a compatible transition to the adjacent residential communities.

Public Spaces:

The White Flint Sector Plan unifies the new area through the use of two intersecting pedestrian-oriented Promenades – one north-south along Rockville Pike, the other east-west along the new core area. The Sector Plan recommends one new park, an expansion of an existing park, enhancements to a third park, and a series of six neighborhood parks throughout the area. The new park, the Civic Green, will be located in the core area. White Flint Neighborhood Park will be expanded and Wall Park will be enhanced by relocating the surface parking to provide more recreational uses. The park facilities will be connected through a series of paths, including a Recreational Loop, bike paths and trails.



Sustainability:

The compact, walkable, and green White Flint fully integrates sustainability. It accommodates new residents and business while reducing land consumption and vehicle miles travelled, improving carbon footprint, and water and air quality. Redevelopment can improve environmental conditions and create a greener community, which conserves energy and uses roofs and green spaces to filter stormwater and purify the air. The innovative zoning system developed for White Flint provides incentives to incorporate green building technology and environmental site design while reinforcing current environmental regulations.

Learn More:

This is a brief summary of the White Flint Sector Plan, adapted from the Montgomery County Planning Board's July 16, 2009, approved proposal. The Plan is available on-line at:

www.tinyurl.com/whiteflintsectorplan.

This summary was prepared from the text of the White Flint Sector Plan by Friends of White Flint, a non-profit organization dedicated to a sustainable, walkable, and engaging community. **For more information:** www.whiteflint.org.

Lyme Disease Fact Sheet

Lyme disease

- Caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a bacterium.
- Transmitted by the bite of an infected black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), which must be attached to the skin for at least 24 hours for transmission to occur.

Recognize the symptoms

- From 3 – 30 days after a tick bite, a gradually expanding rash (called erythema migrans) occurs at the site of the tick bite in 70-80% of infected people. The rash can expand over several days up to 12 inches and may resemble a bull's eye.
- Other symptoms may include fever, headache, and fatigue.
- If untreated, the disease may spread within a few days to weeks and may cause a loss of muscle tone on one or both sides of the face, severe headaches and neck stiffness, shooting pains that may interrupt sleep, heart palpitations and dizziness, and pain that shifts from joint to joint.
- After several months, 60% of untreated patients may develop severe joint pain and swelling, particularly in the knees. Five percent of untreated patients may experience shooting pains, numbness or tingling in the hands or feet, and problems with concentration and short term memory.
- Contact your health care provider if you develop any of these symptoms after a tick bite or after being in tick habitat.
- Most cases of Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotics, especially when treatment is started early.

Keep ticks off

- Ticks are most active from late spring through early fall.
- Insect repellent containing 20-50% DEET is recommended to prevent tick bites.
- Repellents with up to 30% DEET can safely be used on children over 2 months of age.
- Treat clothes with permethrin (don't use permethrin directly on skin).
- Long pants and long sleeves help keep ticks off of skin, and tucking pant legs into socks and shirts into pants keep ticks on outside of clothing.
- Light colored clothing lets you spot ticks more easily.
- Talk to your veterinarian about tick control products for your pets.
- When enjoying the outdoors, avoid wooded or brushy areas with tall grass and leaf litter.
- Check yourself, your kids and your pets daily for ticks when spending time in tick habitat.

To remove ticks

- Use fine-tipped tweezers and protect bare hands with a tissue or gloves.
- Grab the tick close to the skin; do not twist or jerk the tick.
- Gently pull straight up until all parts of the tick are removed.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based rub.
- Clean the site of the tick bite with soap and water or an antiseptic.
- Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish, or other products to remove ticks.

For more information, visit: http://edcp.org/vet_med/lyme_disease.html